



HAMILTON-WENTWORTH CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
ST. AUGUSTINE CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
25 Alma Street
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JANUARY 2015 NEWSLETTER



"Let us be very sincere in our dealings with each other, and have the courage to accept each other as we are, not be surprised or become preoccupied at each other's failures—rather, see and find in each other the good, for each of us is created in the image of God."
Mother Teresa of Calcutta

WELCOME TO 2015

It is my sincere hope and prayer that the holiday season was truly a blessed peaceful and healthy one spent with family and friends. May God bless you all during the coming year with health, love and happiness.



FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY – JANUARY 6, 2015

The Three Magi from the east travelled a long distance to find the "newborn King of the Jews" and to offer Him precious gifts, trusting only the star's guidance. They must also have been men who recognized the prior generosity of God for their initial response in finding the Child was to "do Him homage." This was their first and most important gift and helps us appreciate the symbolic meaning of their treasures: giving gold was a response of sharing their possessions; giving frankincense was a response of reverence and gratitude for God's gifts to them; giving the myrrh was a response of obedience in following God's revelation in the star. The magi in the gospels model for us the most appropriate response to God's unprecedented generosity to us: the gift of self, expressed in worship and our own generous deeds.



FAMILY GENEROSITY

Thank you to all families for the lovely wishes and gifts sent to the office & staff members. Your generosity was overwhelming and greatly appreciated. Your thoughtfulness during this Christmas season has not gone unnoticed. It is because of your support, generosity and involvement, that St. Augustine School is successful.

VIRTUE OF MONTH

THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS ARE RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR DEMONSTRATION OF HOPE
IN MONTH OF DECEMBER



Mrs. Woloszyn/ Miss MacFarlane– Liam S.
Mrs. MacCabe-Freeman/ Ms Mandarino – Nicolas S.
Mr. Havers- Porshalynn L.
Mr. Hewitson – Adam H.
Mrs. Bury – Jacob D.
Mrs. MacEachern – Joshua C.
Ms. Cornale – Laura H.
Mrs. Harold – Teaghan K.
Miss. Filice – Grace O.
Mrs. Grant – Margo Y.
Mrs. Glavic – Natalie M.
Mr. Burgio – Jessica B.
Miss Novak – Kaleigh H.

FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Registrations take place February 2 – February 12, 2015

Junior Kindergarten: Child must be 4 years of age by Dec 31, 2015.

Senior Kindergarten: Child must be 5 years of age by Dec. 31, 2015



It is not necessary to re-Register students who are presently attending JK Classes in our school.

Birth & Baptismal Certificates: For verification, we will require your child's Birth & Baptismal Certificate, which the school will copy and return to you immediately.

Tax Form: If you already have a child attending St. Augustine School, a new tax form is not necessary unless you have recently moved.

Separate School Lease: Necessary to accompany the tax forms if one parent is Non-Catholic. Both parents must sign this them.

Immunization Record: Re: Immunization of School Pupils Act, 1982: This act requires that records be maintained and immunization status of each school student under the age of 18 years.

Please call the school office (905 523-2338) to book an appointment.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

There will be parent meeting on Thursday, January 7th, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. for parents whose Grade 2 children will be making their first reconciliation. The meeting will be held at St. Augustine Parish Hall.

NEW YEAR JANUARY SCHOOL MASS

Friday, January 9, 2015 @ 9:00 a.m. at St. Augustine Church.

All parents and guardians are welcome to join us.

RESPONSIBILITY & SCHOOL SUCCESS TIED

Children who learn to be responsible do better in school. They get along better with teachers and peers. They make better decisions. They're more apt to try, follow through and succeed.

To teach your child responsibility:

- **Practice what you preach.** Be a role model for your child. If you want him to speak respectfully, for instance, talk to him with respect too, and model it in how you talk to others.
- **Discuss consequences.** Ask questions like, "How do you think Joe felt when you said that?" "When someone insults you how do you feel?"
- **Enforce key rules.** Be clear about what consequences will happen when your child does certain things. Then follow through.
- **Learn from the past.** For example, "Remember when Shelly pushed you? We talked about walking away. Later, you told her how you felt."
- **Allow freedom.** Let your child take minor risks as you guide his/her experiences and ensure his/her safety.
- **Develop understanding.** Pose questions that help your child think. "What did you do?" "Why do you think that happened?" "Are you happy with your decision?" "What would you do differently next time?"

DO YOU STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF EFFORT?

It's unreasonable to expect every student to get 100% on every assignment. But every student is capable of achieving his/her own "potential" if he/she makes the effort. Answer the following questions yes or no to see if you're encouraging your child's very best effort.

1. Do you notice your child's effort? Example: "I can see how hard you're working?"
2. Do you encourage your child to take pride in his/her effort? "You must feel great to know that you hung in there".
3. Do you model good effort? "I'm behind on finishing this report but I will have the next section done by tomorrow morning."

4. Do you point to effort as the reason for your child's improvement? "That extra half hour a night of studying has paid off."
5. Do you concentrate more on your child's effort than the results?

How did you do? Each yes answer means you are encouraging your child to strive for his/her personal best. For each no answer, try that idea from the quiz

"ALL THE SO-CALLED 'SECRETS OF SUCCESS' IN THE WORLD WON'T WORK UNLESS YOU DO."

Author Unknown



Please Ensure...

- That your child is dressed properly for outdoor play at recess. All students should come to school with a hat, gloves, winter boots, and a warm coat or jacket. All students should come to school with a hat, gloves, winter boots, and a warm coat or jacket.
- That all personal items are labelled for easy identification.
- It is recommended that a pair of running shoes is left at school. For health and safety reasons, students will not be allowed to wear their boots or wet shoes in the classroom.
- Please do not send your child to school if he/she is not well enough to go outdoors for recess. Germs spread quickly and we want to keep everyone healthy.
- Snowballs may have particles of ice, grit or stones can be imbedded in the snow without the person's knowledge and could result in head or eye injuries. **SNOW THROWING IS NOT PERMITTED.** All students have been give verbal warnings about the dangers of throwing snow or snowballs. Any student – FDK to Grade 8 who chooses to throw snow/snowballs will be suspended. Please discuss this important rule with your child/ren.

Please listen to your local radio and T.V. station during the winter months for warnings about wind chill conditions and school closures. If our school is closed it will be announced on the radio by 7 am. If the school is open, as a parent it is your decision as to whether your child should brave the weather conditions. For the sake of safety there may be times when staying home is best. Unless schools have been officially closed early in the morning or the night before, there will be school staff on site. Please call the school if your child will stay home.



SCIENCE FAIR

St. Augustine is holding its annual Science Fair on Wednesday, January 28, 2015. All intermediate students and junior volunteer participants are encouraged to work hard on their projects both at home and school. The system science fair is on Saturday, February 28, 2015 at Bishop Ryan Secondary School on Rymal Road.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

Please join us for our next Catholic School Council Meeting on Monday, January 12, 2015 at 6:45pm.

Raffle Fundraiser Results:

We would like to thank everyone for supporting the Catholic School Council Fundraising Draw. A special thank-you to Mrs. Scime, Mrs. Fortino, Mrs. Sienna, Mrs. Mac Donald, Mrs. Castelli and Mrs. Fraser and the staff for collecting the tickets, counting the money and helping things run smoothly. We would also like to thank Father Love for drawing the winning tickets at the School Family Advent Night.

We congratulate the following individuals on their prizes:

- Cash Prizes: 1st prize-\$500.00-Deana Higgins
 2nd prize-\$200.00-Holly Sutton
 3rd prize-\$100.00-Heather Hulton

Miguel F. sold the most books of tickets-He won 4 tickets to a Dundas real McCoys Game (donated by Brian de Nobriga of Claybar Contracting) and free pitas from Pita Pit-Dundas.

Draws for one book of tickets sold: Elizabeth S., Grace J. and Augustus L. each won a large gift basket. The gift baskets were generously donated by Mrs. Kline (Rachel M.'s grandmother.)

After prizes were awarded, we made a profit of over \$2300, which will be used to improve technology at our school.

We thank everyone who purchased a ticket and supported our students.

Sincerely, Catholic School Council

PARENTING TIP OF THE MONTH

Tip #83 – In the Christmas carol *O Holy Night* we hear these words: “Long lay the world in sin and error pining. Till He appeared and the Soul felt its worth.” The words are a beautiful reminder that we are loved by God and that Christ’s birth reminds us of our inherent value. In a world that can, at times, be hurtful, our children can seek refuge in loving families and through a personal relationship with Jesus. Christmas is a lovely time to remind our children that when Jesus was born he came to live among us and that he still wants to be with each of us today. Through prayer, attending Mass and simply talking to God about the highs and lows of their day, children can develop a friendship with Jesus who loves them deeply. This Christmas, give your children a powerful gift by helping them develop a friendship with our Saviour.

MARRIAGE TIP OF THE MONTH

Tip #63 – Christmas is a time of joy in families, but also a time of stress as we do too much, eat too much and spend too much! This year make Christmas truly special by slowing things down just a little. Spend some time together, just the two of you; tell your spouse why you see them as a gift all year long. Express your love to your spouse – knowing how you feel about them and why you feel that way may be the greatest gift they will receive.

GRADE 3 SWIM TO SURVIVE PROGRAM

The Grade 3 students will begin this program on January 6th and it will run on Tuesdays. A note will be sent home.

GRADE 8

St. Mary’s will be here to help our students with their option sheets and register on Thursday, January 8th
The Grade 8 feeder school visit will be on Tuesday, January 20th.

CASH ON LINE

If you have not registered, please go to the *School Cash Online* home page <https://hwcdsb.schoolcashionline.com/> and select the **“Get Started Today”** option. Our school has over 40% of our families registered. Thank you!

TRIPS

Please visit our school calendar on our website to view all trips as they are booked.

RISE ABOVE ...BULLYING AWARENESS

The students will have anti-bullying awareness activities and assemblies on Thursday, January 22nd.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP WITH DUNDAS PITA PIT

Together with other local schools and Pita Pit, over 9000lbs of food for the Dundas Salvation Army Food Bank was raised! Thank you for making this possible.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
DAY
FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2015
NO SCHOOL